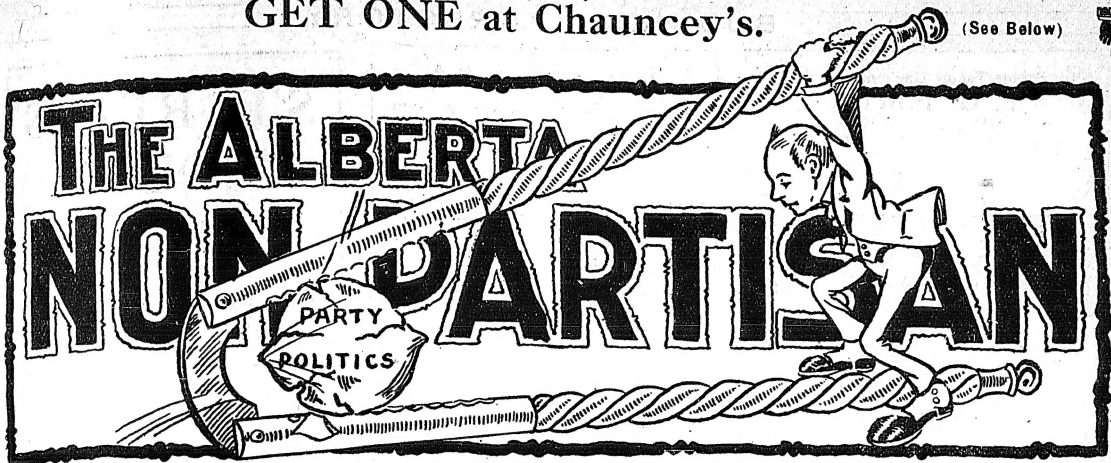


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VOL. 2

CALGARY, MAY 10, 1918

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No. 12

"A MAN'S A MAN FOR A' THAT."

Is there, for honest poverty, that hangs his
head, and a' that?
The coward-slave, we pass him by—We
dare be poor for a' that;
For a' that, and a' that, Our toils obscure,
and a' that,
The rank is but the guinea's stamp—The
man's the gowd for a' that.

What though on hamely fare we dine—
Wear hoddin grey, and a' that?
Gie fools their silks, and knaves their
wine—A man's a man, for a' that;
For a' that, and a' that, Their tinsel show,
and a' that;
The Honest Man, though e'er sae poor, Is
King o' man for a' that.

Ye see yon birkie ca'd a lord, Wha struts,
and stares, and a' that;
Though hundreds worship at his word, He's
but a coof for a' that;
For a' that, and a' that, His riband, star,
and a' that,
The man of independent mind, He looks
and laughs at a' that.

A prince can mak' a belted knight, A
marquis, duke, and a' that;
But an honest man's aboon his might,
Gude faith he mauna fa' that;
For a' that, and a' that, Their dignities,
and a' that;
The pith o' sense, and pride o' worth, are
higher rank than a' that.

Then let us pray that come it may, As
come it will for a' that,
That sense and worth, o'er a' the earth,
May bear the gree and a' that;
For a' that, and a' that, It's coming yet for
a' that,
That man to man, the world o'er, Shall
brothers be for a' that.

—ROBBIE BURNS

"All things are thine estate; yet must
Thou first display the title deeds,
And sue the world. Be strong; and trust
High instincts more than all the creeds."
—LORD LYTTON.

The Master and The Man

"He who thinketh himself something
when he is nothing deceiveth himself."
—ST. PAUL.

"Judge not that ye be not judged, for
with that judgment ye judge ye shall be
judged, and with what measure ye mete
it shall be measured to you again."
—JESUS.

"Suffer the little children to come unto
me and forbid them not, for of such is
the Kingdom of Heaven."
—JESUS.

JESUS says: "If a man take away thy
coat, let him have thy cloak also."

"Take heed that ye do not your alms
before men to be seen of them, otherwise
ye have no reward of your Father which
is in Heaven."
—JESUS.

"But the publican stood afar off and
lifted up not so much as his eyes to Heaven,
but smote upon his breast and cried, 'God
be merciful to me a sinner.' I tell you
that this man went to his house justified
rather than the other."
—JESUS.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they
shall obtain mercy."
—JESUS.

"The wind bloweth where it listeth
and thou hearest the sound thereof."
—JESUS.

"You can buy preachers like that in
hell for ten cents a dozen."
—FRENCH OLIVER.

"Take your dirty carcass out of here."
—FRENCH OLIVER.

"These men will wake up five hundred
fathoms deep in hell."
—FRENCH OLIVER.

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interpretation of the Bible.

Somebody announced at the meeting
that Dr. F. Oliver had given \$1,000 to a
poor church, and—Cheers!

"When that dirty Unitarian gang
wakes up in hell, etc."
—FRENCH OLIVER.

"There is not enough water on earth
to save a soul from hell."
—FRENCH OLIVER.

"Christian Science comes as a breath
from hell."
—FRENCH OLIVER.

"To be nameless in worthy deeds ex-
ceeds an infamous history."
—SIR THOMAS BROWNE.

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long enough, let us now explain religion
by history."—KARL MARX.

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 OF YOUR FURTHER
 COMMANDS.



CURRENT HISTORY

FRENCH OLIVER

Well, here we are again! Who have we with us now? None other than our old friend French Oliver! Oliver (French) gives us Hell. Oliver (Frank) gives us damnation. Oliver (John) gives us a splendid premier of B.C. There's an Oliver in South Bend who makes plows; there's Oliver Twist, the Model of our Modern Railway Magnate who always looks for more. There was Oliver Cromwell, Oliver Goldsmith, and there is a chap in an 8th Avenue barber shop named Oliver, who always gives me a decent shave when I can get a spare quarter, but since I have heard French Oliver, I want no more Olivers.

Of Olivers young and Olivers old,
Of Olivers hot and Olivers cold,
Of Olivers tender and Olivers tough—
Thanks be to God we have had enough!

This chap, French Oliver, met us before. The last time he was here was in 1758. His name then was, Jonathan Edwards, and he died March 22nd, 1758, from inoculation for smallpox. That's one thing we have to thank vaccination for—it carried off one of our original hell-firing evangelists.

Jonathan Edwards preached just like French Oliver. That shows that French Oliver is just about 200 years behind the times. If he had been born in 1700 he would have been in his real day.

Here's a little selection from Jonathan. Read it and then read French Oliver's sermon on "Hell, as I See It."

"O sinner! consider the fearful danger you are in; it is a great furnace of wrath, a wide and bottomless pit, full of the fire of wrath, that you are held over in the hand of that God, whose wrath is provoked and incensed as much against you, as against many of the damned in hell;—you hang by a slender thread with the flames of Divine wrath flashing about it, and ready every moment to singe it and burn it asunder; and you have no interest in any Mediator, and nothing to lay hold of to save yourself, nothing to keep off the flames of wrath, nothing of your own, nothing that you ever have done, nothing that you can do, to induce God to spare you one moment

"It is everlasting wrath. It would be dreadful to suffer this fierceness and wrath of Almighty God one moment; but you must suffer it to all eternity; there will be no end to this exquisite, horrible misery; when you look forward you shall see a long forever, a boundless duration before you, which will swallow up your thoughts and amaze your soul; and you will absolutely despair of ever having any deliverance, any end, any mitigation, any rest at all; you will know certainly that you must wear out long ages, millions of millions of ages, in wrestling and conflicting with this Almighty merciless vengeance; and then, when you have so done, when so many ages have actually been spent by you in this manner, you will know that all is but a point to what remains."

That's goin' some! isn't it?

Too bad to have a good-looking man like Oliver getting easy money to scare brainless people by a rebash of sermons uttered 175 years ago!

THE LAND QUESTION

Our Ottawa correspondent calls attention this week to a remarkable thing. The Government proposes to lease part of the Indian Lands to increase production. Sure thing! Do what you bally well please with the Indians, they have no votes, but what about the C.P.R.?

Here is some of the best land in the world. The C.P.R. owns it and the Government is mum. But the lands of the Indian—ah, that is a different matter!

Incidentally the budget brings out the fact that the C.P.R. is to pay some taxes this year. The Government, however, made special provisions for increasing the freight rates of the C.P.R. so not only does the C.P.R. to-day collect money from us for freight rates and passenger services but it has been appointed by the Government as tax collector for the people of Canada. If we remember rightly, it was figured out that the C.P.R. would get \$20,000,000, more or less from the excess freight rates which they are now permitted to charge. A trifle of this is to go back to the Government and I suppose we should be thankful that they didn't keep it all.

But the real question before the people to-day is the land question. In the Province of Alberta there are 7,000,000 acres of School lands. There is approximately the same area in the Province of Saskatchewan. These lands are sold from time to time and the Provincial Government gets interest upon the money obtained from the sale of this land, but the trouble with this system is that the land only becomes productive when it is sold. There are hundreds of people who to-day would like to go out upon the land and produce something, but they do not want to feed fat some speculator in land who to-day is holding up the price for personal profit to himself.

The Government does nothing but the remedy is on hand and so plainly effective that he who runs may read. The school lands should never have been held by the Dominion Government. These lands should have been turned over to the provinces. This should be done now and the province should lease them on 99-year leases subject to revaluation every three or five years and that valuation would take no account whatever of the improvements which had been put upon the land. In this way absolute security of tenure would be given to the man who rented the land. He would know that his efforts in making improvements would not increase the valuation of his land, then at any time he wanted to dispose of his property he would sell subject to the lease.

The benefits resulting from such a policy are almost inconceivable. It would bring thousands of men who to-day are idle into the fields of productive activity. The fact that lands can be rented from the Provincial Government on a lease basis such as we have suggested would be a permanent check to the speculative transactions in idle lands and it would bring in to the revenues of the Province from the use of the school lands a sum so vastly in excess of that which we receive to-day from this source that it would bear to it no comparison whatever.

Some years ago a square mile of land in what is now the City of Chicago, was set apart for the support of the schools in Illinois. The bulk of this was sold some years ago, part was retained. The

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retained portion has been leased on long term leases such as we have described. This part of the transaction has been very profitable but if the entire amount of the original grant had been treated in the same way it would have brought sufficient revenues to the State of Illinois to maintain the entire school system of the State.

Precisely the same policy in regard to land should be adopted by the City of Calgary. The tax sale must be held sooner or later. When it is, large areas of land are bound to fall in to the possession of the city. Never again should these lands change from the collective ownership of the city to individual ownership. When they become the property of the city they should be put out upon lease, subject to revaluation from time to time and in this way as the years roll on the increasing revenues of the city would go up by leaps and bounds and the city would find itself in everyday language, "On Easy Street." The private ownership of land is as vicious as the private ownership of air and water. Land is the property of all the people unless it was foreordained by GOD, that some miserable "kikes", of landlords should have permission to kick their fellow-men completely off GOD'S footstool.

KARL MARX CENTENARY

"One hundred years ago a man was born."

There is nothing so rare in a world of men as a man.

On the 5th of May, 1818, was born a man to whom the working-class of the world owes more than to any other human being. As Darwin discovered the law of evolution of organic nature, so Karl Marx discovered the law of evolution of human history. Marx established the simple historical fact that all the various forms of human society depend on how people eat, drink, live and clothe themselves and how they obtain the means of subsistence. By this scientific discovery human history was put upon its real basis and all previous society was put in its proper light. Marx also discovered that all social wealth is accumulated surplus value; value which the worker has created above his pay and which the capitalist pockets without giving the worker any compensation for it, and which is accumulated for the purpose of exploiting the worker with it and by it still more.

The materialistic conception of history and the theory of surplus value—these are the two most important scientific discoveries of this scholarly investigator, writer and author in the field of economic, political and social research. Marx differed from the ordinary representative of science for he pursued his researches not for the sake of science, but so that he might put his knowledge at the disposal of the enslaved masses of mankind of the labor movement of the world—that is the great merit of this great thinker and fighter. His famous motto: "Proletarians of all nations, unite!" will ring down through the ages as the battle-cry of the workers of the entire world. To-day, on his hundredth anniversary, he is remembered on farm, in factory and workshop, from Siberia's icy mountains to India's coral strand. Clear-sighted workers of all countries will gain consolation and hope for the future from this immortal leader of the social revolution now shaking the earth and destined to destroy despotism in all its forms and emancipate the race from the slavery of the ages.

"Workers of the world, unite!"

—JOHN PHAROS.

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"There is no wealth but life. That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings."—Ruskin.

THE NEXT-OF-KIN

The Calgary Next-of-Kin Association is passing through a stormy period at the present time, caused by a few of the highbrow (?) ladies who have been so accustomed to run things that they can never feel at home in the Next-of-Kin unless they are bossing.

This association was started by a few women of vision who anticipated the problems of war, and saw the necessity of banding together for self protection.

In the first stages of the movement none of the upper ten class of women could be found to recognize it, but as soon as the organization became strong and influential then immediately an attempt was made to capture it; whether political purposes or merely personal ends account for this, we cannot say.

It seems reasonably certain that much of the disturbance has been caused by the supercilious interference of some of the officers' wives. These ladies have little or nothing in common with the wives of privates, and not until equal pay to officers and privates be given will their wives meet on an equal footing.

As things are at present, we would recommend that the wives of officers form an organization of their own, and run it any way they please. The Next-of-Kin is a working-class organization with the proletariat outlook, and will not be officered well by officers' wives.

RED DEER BY-ELECTION

The Red Deer seat vacated by Mr. Michener who is now a senatorial patronage appointee, is being contested by a Liberal of the orthodox faith, and a Unionist. Mr. Galbraith, who is the Unionist candidate, is trying to lay a claim for independence and promises to sit on the cross benches if elected.

If this gentleman be sincere in his independent professions, why does he not run as an independent? Sitting on the cross benches does not make an independent, it is the election expenses that settles the attitude of members of Parliament, and if Mr. Galbraith will tell us who is paying the election bills, we will tell him how he will vote.

Why does Mr. Galbraith not earn the right to sit on the cross benches by joining the Non-Partisan League? If he will do this his expenses will be paid directly from the pockets of his own people, and he will be their servant in reality.

We believe that Mr. Galbraith is playing the old political game and is the first sign of an attempt to Unionise the Province of Alberta. We have had enough of this already, in Dominion politics, and it is not likely that Mr. Galbraith can be elected without the aid of a Union Government election act, campaign funds notwithstanding.

* * *

U.F.A. CAMPAIGN

The United Farmers of Alberta are about to launch a great campaign for membership and education along co-operative lines. This is much needed, and we believe the time is opportune.

The farmers' industrial movement is spreading throughout our whole Dominion and will bring with it enlightenment and the spirit of co-operation. It is this spirit that is needed more than anything else in the trying times that are ahead of every nation in the world. This is the king spirit of the new age.

Recently we have got the United Farmers of Ontario, and now the movement has entered New Brunswick: when will we get the United Farmers of Quebec? All the organized provinces should interest themselves more in the organizations of other provinces. We believe that the uniting of the farmers of Quebec would be a very desirable accomplishment, for with their co-operation greater things may be done for the common good.

President Wood of the Alberta organization has accepted an invitation to go on a lecture tour with the Chautauqua this summer. We con-

gratulate the Chautauqua on securing Mr. Wood in this capacity, and we congratulate the people who will thus be able to hear a farmer lecturer who is one of the ablest and best informed men on his subject in this province.

* * *

THE NEXT GOVERNMENT OF BRITAIN

Reports from Great Britain indicate that a general election is impending; that the Labor Party is growing in influence, and may be called upon to form the next government. The Labor Party is officered by men of outstanding ability and clarity of vision, and whose influence since the beginning of the war is not only national but world-wide. The voting power of the party will be greatly increased by the new Franchise Bill, and also by the changed policy which opens the ranks to all who are in sympathy with labor principles. Taking all into consideration it does not seem unlikely that the Labor Party will come to power in Britain at the next election.

We are not sure that success at this time would be advisable. While we are convinced of the truth that the leaders of the old social order are incapable of leadership in the coming days and that the labor leaders alone have the outlook necessary to guide the destinies of the nation under the conditions that are inevitable after the war, yet there are other considerations which may outweigh even these convictions.

If the Labor Party is called upon to take the reins of government during the war it will have to face the industrial, social and financial chaos brought about by the present administration. Britain has now a debt of six billion pounds, and the Lloyd George administration is pledged to pay interest on this colossal figure. It is not likely that this is possible, and therefore if the Labor Party came to power and failed to do it, the impression would be left that the old administration could have carried it through. The all-powerful Northcliffe press would hasten to charge labor with the crimes and incapacities of its predecessors. Thus the party would be wrecked before it had an opportunity to establish itself by efficient service. We believe it would be better to allow the present government or a similar one to face its own inevitable doom in the financial collapse, and in the industrial chaos which will follow the cessation of hostilities, and then the Labor Party would be called upon to reconstruct on a new social and economic basis the future of the British people.

SOLDIERS' PENSIONS A comparative statement of soldiers' pensions has again been issued by the publicity department at Ottawa. The pensions paid in Canada we are told are much higher than any other country; almost twice as much as in Great Britain. Canada pays a soldier totally disabled fifty dollars per month; Britain only pays twenty-nine dollars.

A statement of pensions paid without a comparative statement of the cost of living is always misleading. It may be that the British soldier with his small pension would be better off than the Canadian soldier with his big pension. There are other factors when discussing pensions which ought to be considered before passing judgment on the advertised generosity of Ottawa.

The first is the medical classification of the soldier who is discharged with a pension. All soldiers are medically examined and classified according to their disability and inability to earn a living in the open market before their discharge. The medical boards are made up of men who are not usually conversant with industrial conditions, and very often men of poor judgment, hence there is often a great disparity in the classification. We have in mind a striking example of this statement which is common gossip.

Colonel L——, now a member of the Pensions Commission, was invalided home from France suffering from a lesion of the heart. He is classified as totally disabled and draws the maximum pension of eighteen hundred and ninety dollars per year, besides his salary on the commission. A private from Edmonton, suffering from the same complaint, was invalided home classified as partially disabled, and is now drawing the magnificent pension of about one hundred dollars per year. Is this fair? The maximum pension in Canada may be the highest but what is the use of a high maximum if the medical boards classify in this way?

There is another objection to the pension system that ought to be rectified. Returned soldiers suffering from a chronic disease may receive their discharge immediately on returning to Canada regardless of whether the disease was contracted on active service or not. The discharged soldier is then handed over to the care of the Invalid Soldiers' Commission as a civilian. Should he die while under the care of this commission, being no longer a soldier, he is not entitled to a pension. If these and other objections, such as

the inequality of pensions or dependents of officers and men, were removed, our pension system would be more worthy to boast about.

* * *

NEWSPAPER CRITICISM It is common for people to criticise newspapers; the news is said to be colored, and the general editorial tone is such as to uphold the mighty and discredit the people.

The Morning Albertan which is perhaps the most fearless newspaper in the Province of Alberta and which has often with loss to itself defended the issues in favor of the people, frankly states in a recent editorial why such criticism as mentioned above has a foundation. The Morning Albertan in the editorial referred to did not speak of this particular point but in answer to a correspondent regarding the failure of the newspapers to increase their prices to the subscribers in keeping with the increased cost of production, it said that newspapers were relying more on advertisers than on subscribers for support, and consequently were able to get along without charging more for subscriptions. If there is any truth in the trite newspaper criticism this will be found to be the reason—it is the advertisers not the general reading public that the paper looks to for support. The Albertan says, "This is a bad system."

Now, are the subscribers willing to pay enough for newspapers to make these papers independent of the advertisers. We doubt this very much. But until they are willing to do so they might as well withhold criticism.

* * *

SIGNS THAT WOMEN WILL REFORM THE WORLD The Calgary Local Council of Women

—to those who know it best, is most famous for its utter ignorance of the real human problems. Its attitude is Tory and Imperialistic, and for jingoism it would resemble a pink tea in Potsdam. But while this is generally true of the Council, there are a few able and progressive women amongst those composing the Council, who may succeed ultimately in redeeming the institution.

There are signs already of a slight improvement in the direction of humanness in this most useless society. For instance, it has recently forwarded a resolution to the Prime Minister of Canada and to Mr. T. M. Tweedie, M.P., asking that the shooting of wild birds for sport

be prohibited. This same organization requested the conscription of Canadian manhood to be shot, whether wealth was conscripted or not—many men are not equal to a sparrow in the opinion of this body.

But let us rejoice that their hearts have been touched by the shooting of ducks and prairie chickens. This is a great advance to make in one year. If this Society continues its phenomenal progress along humanitarian lines, we may revive our hopes once more that the women will reform the world.

* * *

TITLES There has been much talk of titles in Canada recently, and some legislation dealing with the question has been passed, which if we understand it aright merely adds that the Prime Minister of Canada must be consulted before titles are granted hereafter. As we see it a title might be as silly when endorsed by a premier, as when granted by a king.

But why did not our Knights in the House begin the good work by making a bonfire of their "Sirs"?

Sir Robert, Sir Sam, Sir Joseph Flavelle, etc., etc., etc., should have set Canadians a moral example by de-knighting and de-sir-ing themselves.

ALLEN

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THE NEED FOR CO-OPERATION

By Mrs. McKinney, M.L.A.



My Dear Comrades:—

Now that the Session of the Legislature is over for this year and no Provincial or Dominion election is in sight the question naturally arises, "What next?" for members of the Non-Partisan movement. In uniting with any movement every thoughtful man and

approaching the questions we study and in forming the opinions we hold. The great moral, social and economic problems of to-day constitute a challenge to every individual and none are so free to effectively help in their solution as those who approach them without party bias and with a high purpose far removed from the sordid and selfish and bent primarily on serving humanity.

The stress and sacrifice of to-day calls for nothing less, and given this we can and will work with greater courage, patience and zeal for the accomplishing of what we feel to be right.

—LOUISE C. MCKINNEY.

* * *

THAT "MORE PRODUCTION" CRY!

A "Farm Woman" living in the vicinity of Craigmyle who is supposed to be interested in the establishment of Horticultural Clubs for the children, has received a letter from the office of the Food Controller urging the use of vegetables on the farm to conserve wheat, meat, etc., and asking her to use her influence in organizing as many clubs as possible. The following reply has been sent:

Office of the Food Controller.
F. Abraham, Esq.,

Dear Sir:—

Your letter re the necessity of horticultural work to hand. I fully appreciate the sentiments expressed therein and will do all I possibly can to help on the good work, but in this community I will be laboring under a very serious handicap for the following reasons:—I live in one of the finest wheat belts in the West, and a large number of farmers realizing to the full, the responsibility placed upon their shoulders to raise every pound of grain possible, ordered in tractors late in winter, hoping by this means to overcome the shortage of labor and increase the acreage in crop.

We are served by the Canadian Northern which is a Government railroad, and so far only three tractors have been brought to our station, and now even these as well as all the tractors that were in the country before, from Saskatoon to Calgary, are tied up for lack of oil which the railroad is failing to bring in.

Again—By an Order-in-Council we hear that all the young men from 20 to 23 are called out. So far as we are concerned that will leave us with only one slim boy of 18 to farm 640 acres.

I am not making any personal howl, we are only a type.

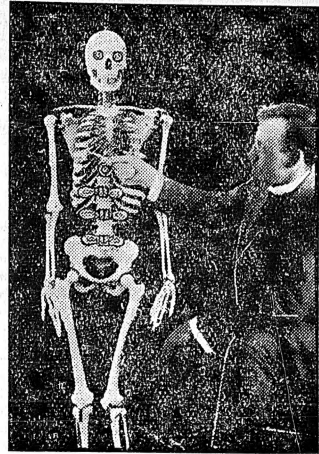
A neighbor who has exempted last winter because he had about 200 acres ready for crop was ordered a short time ago to report at Calgary. At the time he was obliged to go around by Stettler necessitating a heavy expense bill and almost a week's absence in seeding time. I might go on indefinitely quoting similar incidents, which dishearten the people and are causing them to lose confidence in the Government.

Our young countrymen have been all their lives on the farm, and are skilled farmers and horsemen, many of them are farm tractor experts. What in the name of commonsense is the use of picking them all up and sending them to the trenches when the United States have millions of men ready, but cannot find transportation for them?

What encouragement is there for women, and children to try to help by raising carrots, etc.?

—A "FARM WOMAN."

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOU?
The Illuminated Skeleton Tells



Incandescent Lights Indicate the Organs of the Body

Roske & Messenger, Calgary's leading Chiropractors, 304 Leeson & Lineham Block, have a novel and rather startling method of explaining to you what the trouble is when you are ill. They have a skeleton in which they have placed incandescent lights corresponding to the places occupied by the eyes, heart, lungs, liver, stomach and other vital organs. These lights are all connected with electric wires running to the brain. They are using this very ingenious arrangement to show you exactly why a part of the body becomes diseased, which means that a nerve leading from this part to the spine is pinched or injured, explaining to you the brain as the dynamo, and the spinal cord as the main cable.

They have placed small switches along the spine where the nerves branch out to the different organs. By turning one of these switches so that a very small amount of current goes to the light which represents the organ which is diseased, it causes the light to burn very dimly. This illustrates the effect on any part of the body when the nerve force, which comes from the brain, is obstructed in any way. By adjusting the spine, or, in this instance, turning the switch over a notch to supply more current, the light begins to glow brighter again. In order to show what happens when a nerve is so pinched that the nerve cannot pass at all, the switch is closed completely, extinguishing the light, which in our body would mean total paralysis.

These switches work somewhat on the principal feature of the familiar high and low light that burns brightly in one position of the switch and low in another. There are many switches, each working independently of the other. For instance, the light representing the heart may be burning brightly, but the one representing the stomach may be exceedingly dim, thus illustrating the fact that the current leading to one vital organ may be exceedingly strong, while the current leading to another may be very weak.

Roske & Messenger are enthusiastic Chiropractors. They believe in their science and are leaving no stone unturned to prove to the public that Chiropractic is right.

woman realizes that the relationship this involves is two-fold—there are certain benefits that we hope to receive and there are responsibilities which we are expected to assume. The responsibility of the individual member is not discharged when he pays his initial membership fee, but if the movement is worth the price of that fee, then it is worth the intelligent interest of every member, and we owe it to ourselves that we maintain such an interest.

1. The Executive is appointed to direct the affairs of the organization, but they alone cannot insure its success. A letter commending their methods or kindly suggesting something which you feel would be an improvement would materially strengthen their hands. They are doing their best from their viewpoint, but would be glad to know what other members are thinking, and to get the benefit of their ideas. If you are not sure of the reason for any part of their policy, write and ask about it, and see whether the reason given justifies the course of action.

2. There are certain principles on which the movement is based. It is the privilege as well as the duty of every member to study those principles and see whether they are worth while. We have committed ourselves to them—why have we done so? And why do we wish to persuade others to do likewise? We do not want to place ourselves in the position of condemning things just because they are, nor of desiring a change just for the sake of excitement and variety, but neither do we want to assume that because conditions have existed, therefore they must continue to exist be they good or bad, nor to fail to attack undesirable conditions simply because it may be difficult to change them. Will we not strive to make ourselves intelligent on the principles for which we are supposed to stand and to be able to give a reason for the faith that is in us?

One of the greatest essentials in the new and wider democracy of which we talk and dream is the intelligent interest of the individual member of society and it is ours to help raise that standard now. If our present party system is wrong—just where does its weakness lie, and how are we justified in our assumption that the surest and most rapid cure is in continuing the attitude of independence that we have assumed? A study of our financial questions will lead us into broad and deep investigation and cannot be speedily compassed, but we can learn little by little just why we are condemning certain conditions and what the best writers of to-day have to say as to methods of correction.

3. Perhaps last of all it will be profitable for us to analyze our own motives in

Our Parliamentary Letter

From Our Special Correspondent

Our Correspondent at Ottawa is writing a weekly letter, and we publish both because they are a complete record and a splendid resume of the work accomplished and the problems discussed in the House. These letters will be continued to the close of the session and should be of absorbing interest to our readers.



Ottawa, April 26th, 1918

The House has been occupied with a variety of routine business. On April 19th the Premier brought down a motion seeking ratification of the Order-in-Council making amendments to the Military Service Act which cancelled all exemptions for men between twenty and twenty-three. Sir Robert Borden, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Rowell in turn went over the old ground which had been so often traversed before. Mr. Molloy of Provencher, Man., moved an amendment providing for the exemption of farmers, to which Mr. Carvell replied. Mr. Carvell does not wear the guise of a completely happy man as he sits on the Unionist benches but on this occasion he spoke with considerable force and effect though he had very little new light to throw on the subject. He, however, strongly emphasized the fact that the youth of Quebec were not alone in scheming for exemptions under the Act but that the men registered in other provinces and particularly in Ontario had been equally energetic in the process of avoiding its call. Mr. Lapointe of Montreal moved an amendment for a six months hoist when both this and Mr. Molloy's were defeated by majorities of about fifty and the resolution was agreed to by the same number of votes. It is understood that the most of the opposition were decidedly against encouraging the Lapointe amendment and they refrained from making any speeches to the great disappointment of the Ontario Orangemen, who were loaded up with their usual cargo of froth and vituperation. The Military Service Act in its original form has proved a grievous fiasco and if the Government in November had offered a three hundred dollar bounty to every man who enlisted they might have saved themselves a vast amount of trouble and secured infinitely more recruits. Of course the necessities of the situation in Flanders are very great but it may still be found that food is a greater necessity of the Allies than men. Orangemen in the House are the most useless and dangerous element in the Canadian Parliament. They are all men of narrow education and restricted views and have little thought save preserving the petty grafts and interests which may secure popularity among their own constituents and may help their return at the next election. Their attitude has completely disgusted a large number of Western Unionists, some of whom are said to have registered a protest with the Cabinet against it. Mr. H. A. Mackie of Edmonton, who has a French-Canadian mother voiced their sentiments in the House by rebuking the ill-tempered and futile abuse on Quebec which the Orange patriots indulge in, and won general commendation therefor. The said Mr. Mackie is a speaker of considerable powers and knowledge.

The Government have recently done one or two good things. They have provided

funds for a statistical department whose absence was a deplorable gap in our machinery of administration heretofore. They have also introduced a measure providing fifty thousand dollars which will be increased annually to one hundred and fifty thousand dollars for assisting the provinces to establish state labor bureaux. Whatever money the provinces provide for this purpose, will be duplicated by the Federal Government. There was some sharp criticism of the scheme and its deficiencies were pointed out. What is really needed is a complete co-ordinated system of bureaux under Federal control and sooner or later this will have to be devised.

Considerable discussion has taken place at various times in the House over the resignation of Mr. W. F. O'Connor, the Commissioner of Enquiry into the cost of living, who was a very fearless public servant and was the author of what is now known as the Flavell report on the pork-packing industry. Mr. O'Connor resigned after a petty quarrel with his superior, Mr. Crothers, the Minister of Labor, over the question of disciplining some fair satellite in his office. But there are grave suspicions that this was merely a visible pretext and that certain powerful and offended influences forced his withdrawal from office. Mr. Crothers is a genial old busy-body who is absolutely innocent of all real understanding of industrial and labor problems. He has a penchant for dismissing capable subordinates and his rule of life seems to be, "Well, I don't know much but I know enough to fire somebody." In all other countries the complexity of labor problems and their vital relation to the successful conduct of the war has demanded the close attention of Governments and resulted in the allocation of the most competent and progressive ministers to the departments of labor. But here in Canada we are content to run along with an ancient Ontario lawyer in charge of our labor department and then we wonder why labor troubles spring up in every quarter of the country.

Motions by Mr. Clements of B.C. and others which were consolidated by the speaker into one, caused a discussion of the problem of conscripting aliens which is being urged with great force from many quarters. The Government is well aware of the difficulties and complications with which the problem bristles such as the objections of labor to the thin end of the wedge of industrial compulsion, the possibility of complications in international law and the effect in Eastern Europe, in Poland and elsewhere, where the Germans would certainly utilize effectively any such action on our part. There was a heated denunciation of the aliens and their greed and apathy towards our war efforts. Everybody wanted something done but no one came forward with practical and feasible proposals. Intelligent and thoughtful speeches were made by Mr. F. L. Davis of Neepawa and Dr. White of Brandon who are both members of more than average ability. Their common sense and liberality formed a striking contrast to the airy vapourings of a large number of their colleagues who took occasion in the course of the debates upon the labor bureaux and the alien problem to utter their views upon the problem of labor and capital. It was an amusing sight to find some of the most obvious reactionaries posing as valiant champions of the labor interest.

Mr. Meighen has been putting through a bill to amend the Indian Act whereby among other changes, the Indian Commissioners will be empowered to lease tracts of the Reserves, which the Indians are not utilizing, to farmers and ranchers, the proceeds of the leases being turned over to the Indians. Mr. Cahill of Pontiac asked very pertinently why, if the main purpose of the bill was to secure the cultivation of additional land, we should take from the Indians their rights when they are living on the land in their own way and yet do nothing to disturb the vested interests of the C.P.R. and many large landholding corporations who are keeping absolutely idle for speculative profit, vastly larger areas of land.

Wednesday, the 24th, was devoted to two subjects, hay and straw, whose sale it is proposed to inspect rigorously, and the new Parliament Buildings. In the discussion on the first subject, the rural members seized the opportunity without stint to air their views upon various pet grievances and the speeches were more copious than enlightening. The question of the new Parliament Buildings came up when Mr. Carvell brought in the Public Works Department estimates, and he caused great disappointment by announcing that the new buildings would not be completed in time for next session. The Victoria Memorial Museum where Parliament now sits is far from ideal quarters; the acoustics are deplorably bad and the difficulty of hearing combined with the discomfort of all save the front bench chairs are, according to Mr. Hume Cronyn, responsible for the apathy which often marks the attendance on debates. There was considerable criticism of the high cost of the new buildings and the failure to utilize the old walls and some objection was raised to the proposal to provide the Speaker with a home inside the building. But if any servant of the Canadian people deserves consideration it is the present Speaker, Mr. Rhodes, who is both very capable and absolutely impartial and makes an ideal tenant of the chair. It was expected that Mr. A. K. Maclean, who is acting-Minister of Finance in the absence of the elusive Sir Thomas White, would bring down his budget on Thursday the 25th but its introduction has been deferred till next week. Possibly Sir Thomas in distant California still likes to keep his finger on the switches and the theory is that the budget has been dispatched to him for revision and ratification.

Ottawa, May 3rd, 1918.

Tuesday, the 30th, was budget day in the House of Commons and in the absence of Sir Thomas White, A. K. Maclean, who has been acting as Minister of Finance, introduced it. Mr. Maclean is an experienced politician who since 1911 has acted as financial critic for the Laurier opposition. He has never been noted for any aggressively radical views having always taken a very moderate line on most public questions. He spoke for about an hour and his exposition of the financial situation of his country was an agreeable surprise to most of his audience. He has a good talking voice and his marshalling of facts and figures was lucid and intelligible. He confined himself to the cold facts of the case and showed a fine grasp of the art of condensation. Whether one differed with his proposals or not there could be no question but it was an admirable budget speech, on this, friend and foe alike are agreed. His detailed statement of the Canadian finances have already been

(Continued on Page 11)

FARMERS PROTEST AGAINST GOVERNMENT ACTION

A grave crisis is likely to be precipitated by the action of the Government in withdrawing exemptions granted to farm youths of twenty to twenty-two years old. At Edberg, on May 4th, a mass meeting of farmers was held to protest against this latest injustice. A strong message was sent to Hon. T. A. Crerar at Ottawa, stating that the situation was serious, and demanding that the Government adhere to its pledged word given last fall re exemptions for farmers' sons. We publish below the answer received from Mr. Crerar, and also the reply sent by the committee to Mr. Crerar.

Farmers from the Bawlf, Edberg and New Norway districts assure us that seeding operations are being held up pending a satisfactory arrangement with the Government, as many of the young men now being taken own and operate farms, and universal dissatisfaction prevails.

Answer Received from Mr. Crerar

Ottawa, Ont., May 6, 1918.
Committee of Edberg, Alberta.
Telegram received. Appreciate fully seriousness of situation. Farmers in Canada have suffered nothing in comparison with those of France, Italy and Great Britain. There almost every able-bodied man is off farm and work being done by old men, women and children. Feel you have overlooked fact that military influence has tremendously changed in last six weeks. If Germany wins this war, and she is not beaten yet by a long way, she will have something to say as to how and where Canadian farmers will sell their product.

Signed, T. A. CRERAR.

Copy of Telegram Sent in Reply to Mr. Crerar

New Norway, May 6, 1918.
Hon. T. A. Crerar,
Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa.
At a mass meeting held here to-night represented by over five hundred people. In answer to Edberg message of May 6th. You cannot understand the chaotic condition it will create here in our midst to stop seeding now, as to take the actual farmers boys now means practically impossible to sow any more grain, as what there is left of us will have more than our hands full to garner what is already sown. Discouragement universal. Favorable action urgent.

Committee:—

JAMES MINER, Bawlf.
FRANK BARTOFF, Ferintosh.
PETER RAMSAY
ANDREW JOHNSTON
JNO. NEUVE.

* * *

PRICE OF WAGE LABOR

"The average price of wage labor is that quantum of the means of subsistence which is absolutely requisite to keep the laborer in bare existence as a laborer. . . . It is not intended to abolish the personal appropriation of the products of labor, but merely the miserable character of such appropriation, not to do away with the appropriation that is made for the maintenance and reproduction of human life, but that appropriation of the surplus whereby the labor of others is commanded."

—KARL MARX.

A LITTLE CHILD SHALL "SCARE" THEM!



The N.P.L. is but a child politically, yet its representatives have "scared" the Government money-changers, and it has become already a force to be reckoned with in our public life.

FURTHER REPLIES FROM OTTAWA.

Ottawa, April 10th, 1918.

Secretary,

Non-Partisan Political League:

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter with representations in regard to the returned soldiers' problem.

I am in favor of the soldiers getting the most favorable consideration in taking up land. I am also in favor of the idle lands, especially those close to transportation facilities being utilized, if at all possible.

As to pensions, I have always been an advocate of equal pensions without consideration of rank.

Yours respectfully,
W. A. BUCHANAN.

* * *

Dear Sir,—I am in due receipt of your letter of the 28th March, enclosing copy of resolution passed at the second annual convention of the Non-Partisan League of Canada, held on the 20th of March last, and I have noted with interest the views expressed in this resolution.

Your former communication, referred to, of December 27th, also came to my attention and receipt thereof was not acknowledged by me owing to the fact

that an acknowledgement had been sent you by my secretary.

As you are no doubt aware the matters referred to in some of these resolutions have already received the consideration of the Government. Yours very truly,

T. A. CRERAR.

* * *

Ottawa, April 25th, 1918.

Dear Mr. Ford:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 28th ultimo with resolution attached in regard to the returned soldier problem, for which please accept my thanks. I shall place the same before the Minister of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment. Yours truly,

T. M. TWEEDIE.

* * *

THE CANADIAN COMMONWEALTH

F. J. Dixon gave a talk before the Labor Party on "The Canadian Commonwealth." The speaker proved conclusively that there has never been any such animal in Canada, but that Canada has been a country of exploitation from the time of Champlain to 1918. The Labor Party would do well to have the address in pamphlet form.

—THE WINNIPEG VOICE.

The Non-Partisan Letter Box

REVOLUTION IN CANADA

Editor, NON-PARTISAN:—

A recent editorial in the "Grain Growers' Guide," said, "Revolution is coming." This applied mainly to Europe, particularly Germany. Over here in Canada we don't need a revolution, as everything is going on beautifully, and everybody is making money. Of course, our political system may be all right and it makes very little difference whether we live in a republic or under a constitutional monarchy. We notice that things over across the line to the south, don't run any too smooth; there is a whole lot of kicking there right now.

But it appears to me that a little revolution along economic lines might do a heap of good; that is, to those that don't belong to the monied aristocracy. We are told that a short time ago a freight car containing Massey-Harris binders was wrecked on the railroad. The railway people having to settle for the destruction of those binders settled with the implement company for \$33 per binder, which they claimed was the exact cost of making the binder. Now then, when we consider the price we farmers have to pay for binders this year, there appears to be quite a difference between the cost and the selling price, and it looks as if somebody must get a great rake-off.

Of course, nobody expects the Massey-Harris or any other company to sell binders at cost. They could not do that and remain in business. Still it appears that the difference between \$33 and \$250 is a little too much and looks like wholesale robbery and I for one am dead willing to join any sort of revolution that will have for its object the wiping out of some of the difference.

Of course, the statement of the \$33 may be wrong, and it might cost the binder companies more to make binders this year owing to the increased cost of men and material. Still there must be good profit in it, as some of the shareholders in implement companies are becoming millionaires and possessors of titles while the majority of farmers remain poor and have to get fed up by the Government once in a while when crops are a failure.

But the Government is going to do great things for the farmer and has taken the duty off the small tractors. This is all right as far as it goes, the trouble is that only about one out of every hundred farmers can buy a tractor and half of those buying them don't know how to run them. On such things as every farmer has to have in order to farm, such as binders, plows, discs, wagons, etc., the duty is still kept on in spite of the fact that every farmer in Western Canada has asked and begged to have that duty removed for the past many years. Right here some more revolution is needed. In fact we have several abominable things here in democratic Canada that need a little Bolshevism in order to be made fit to get along with.

The farmers and workers of Canada must come together economically and politically, and proceed to straighten up matters so that this country with all its great natural resources will be a fit place to live in for all the people, and not have a few people reap all the benefits while the great majority do all the work for just a living.

—JOHN GLAMBECK, Milo.

WHAT OUR SOLDIERS ARE THINKING

This letter has been forwarded us by D. H. Galbraith, of Vulcan, having been received from his brother who is a Captain in the Army Medical Corps. The letter will be of interest to many of our readers especially those personally acquainted with Mr. Galbraith.

Dear Brother:—

To-day is Good Friday, but the name seems absolute mockery. Imagine any day being called Good, when hell reigns supreme on earth. The devil must fairly gloat as he looks on this earth and sees the hatred in men's hearts. The bombardment, the advance, the slaughter by machine guns, the bayonet charge, the steel being driven through soft flesh, the moment's exultation to be cut short by a bullet, and so on, and the cauldron boils on, all through a few ambitious people placed in position to control the destiny of many.

I was through it last summer, and am expecting to be sent very shortly to go through it again. Others much less fit than myself have been sent weeks ago. The medical casualties just published have been very heavy, and there is pressing need for more to take their place.

I have responded to every call, and will not pass it this time. The name must be represented in this, the greatest of all battles. If word doesn't soon come through, I will put in an application to be sent.

It's a heavy task on at the present time, and one and all are needed to do their full part, not only in the fight but at home, either to produce food or munitions or guns. Still, I don't think it will end this year, excepting by a revolution in Germany, and that can only be brought about by defeat of their present offensive.

I have done over eighty operations since coming here, and everyone being very successful. Am having good health now, and feel able for almost anything.

"BRO. CHAS."

ASHAMED OF TORONTO

Reid Hill, Alberta,

Publisher, ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN:

Dear Sir:—

Thanks for sample copies of above, also March 12th issue, in which there is one article that is worth the whole subscription price. The article referred to is "Toronto, The Good." I am a Canadian, but ashamed of the treatment meted out to W. J. Bryan, the Conscientious Objectors, and the International Bible Students, a religious organization, in forbidding them to have the "Finished Mystery" in their possession. It is plain to be seen that the meeting of the Ministerial Alliance, behind closed doors, has borne fruit, but the cat came out of the bag.

Respectfully yours,

—MRS. A. HEATH.

THE RIGHT SPOT

ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN, Calgary.

Gentlemen:—

Here's a dollar. Send THE NON-PARTISAN. It gives us a rest to read print that isn't bought up in one way or another.

That on "Toronto, the Good" (Mar. 15), went to the right spot. Keep at it!

Sincerely,

E. WEBER, Lajord, Sask.

NOTICE



In the Matter of the
Enforcement of "The
Motor Vehicle Act".

NOTICE is hereby given that the provisions of The Motor Vehicle Act are to be rigidly enforced. There is no defence for a person operating an unlicensed motor vehicle at this date, as immediate delivery of Automobile Number Plates may be obtained not only at the Departmental Office at Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge, but also from the Clerks of the Court at Peace River, Wetaskiwin, Camrose, Stettler, Red Deer, Medicine Hat, Bassano, Macleod and Taber, and from the Process Issuers at Fort Saskatchewan, Vegreville, Lloydminster, Sedgewick, Hardisty, Coronation, Vermilion, Wainwright, Oyen and Youngstown.

The Motor Vehicle Inspectors of the Department have instructions to see that the Act is strictly enforced in its entirety.

Dated at Edmonton this 11th day of April, A.D. 1918.

E. TROWBRIDGE,
Deputy Provincial Secretary.

HAIL INSURANCE

Great North Insurance Co.

(Members Canadian Hall Underwriters' Association)

Farmers! Place your insurance with a company whose Head Office is within easy reach and prompt service can be given.

The season is short, therefore you want quick service.

See our local agent or write Head Office:—

205 Oddfellows' Block, Calgary, Alta.
or The Empire Financiers Ltd.,
307 Darke Block, Regina, Sask.

We also write FIRE and
LIVESTOCK INSURANCE

Prompt adjustment and Payment
of Losses

Agents Wanted

OUR PARLIAMENTARY LETTER

(Continued from Page 8)

known through the Press and there is no need to record them here. Many were inclined to think that his view of Canada's financial composition was unduly optimistic but he skillfully avoided any attempt to deal with the railway problem and estimate the additional liabilities which are inevitable through it. He admitted that there was a considerable trade balance against us to the United States but he claimed that this was more than made up for by the balance in our favor from Great Britain. There are critics who maintain that there is no balance in our favor from Great Britain, but that the money due to Great Britain for military expenditures, interest on bonds and investments held there, insurance premiums and other charges considerably exceeds the monies payable to us by the mother country for food supplies and munitions. The facts of the matter will in due course become patent.

In his peroration, Mr. Maclean declared that we might safely look to the future with courage and fortitude and that our condition was happy in comparison with that of the belligerent conditions in Europe.

Mr. MacMaster, the Liberal member for Brome, in Quebec, has taken Mr. Maclean's place as Opposition financial critic, a great distinction for a new member. Mr. MacMaster, who looks much older than his 41 years, is a graduate of McGill and Edinburgh Universities, has a very good law practice in Montreal and has long been interested in progressive politics. He is a Liberal whose favorite political hero is John Bright and he possesses a fine grasp of social and economic problems. There are few more progressive minds in Canada and he also has a great natural advantage of a free delivery and a good sense of humor. Mr. MacMaster agreed with the general tone of the budget as far as it increased taxation. He regretted that the tax on tea contained no rebates under the British preference and declared that the taxation of the poor was unduly increased. He had doubts about Mr. Maclean's theory of the balance of trade and maintained that the state of affairs put forth by the acting Finance Minister was unduly optimistic. The neglect to take into account the railway liabilities put a false aspect upon the budget statement. He then launched into a severe criticism of the Government for not putting agricultural implements upon the free list and delivered a splendid and exhaustive argument in favor of this reform as a war measure, which excited applause, not only from the Opposition benches but from certain quarters on the Unionist side. At the end of his speech he exhorted the Government to make provision for a sinking fund to reduce gradually the capital amount of our debt. Mr. MacMaster in his speech showed a fine grasp of economic principles but he would do well to read Mr. Asquith's speeches and acquire the faculty of stating his case in a shorter period than two and a half hours.

He was followed by Sir Herbert Ames who is not an inspiring personality. Sir Herbert and Mr. Cockshutt represent the fine flower of high protectionism in the House and it was in full bloom in the course of his speech. Mr. Turgeon, a French Liberal for New Brunswick, who is not a fluent speaker in English, supported Mr. MacMaster's plea for free implements and gave an interesting account of the war efforts of the French-Canadians in New

Brunswick. On Wednesday the debate was resumed by Mr. Hume Cronyn of London, Ontario. Mr. Cronyn is a nephew of Edward Blake, which fact, while proud of, he considers to be a great disadvantage in public life, as it gives him a very high standard to live up to. He is head of several large financial corporations but has in his composition a strain of idealism and broad-minded sympathies which Eastern financiers do not usually indulge in. He pointed out that while Great Britain has managed to pay out of her current income, 17 per cent. of her war expenditures and the United States, 14 per cent., in Canada we have only to date, paid 11 per cent. and he strongly urged that an effort should be made to increase this. As Managing Director of the Huron and Erie Loan Company, Mr. Cronyn is well conversant with rural conditions and is far from sympathetic to a high tariff policy. He declared in his speech:—"The ideals which one carries, more or less dormant, perhaps, throughout life, have pictured a people deep-rooted in the soil, and a yeomanry, satisfied, hardy and intelligent, who would carry on the great career of our race. Whether from prejudice or other insufficient reason, my imagination has never been greatly stirred by the appeal of huge industries and the ceaseless whirr of the wheels of commerce." He was, however, prepared to wait until after the war for reforms of the tariff and advocated the appointment of a tariff commission to ascertain the facts of the case. After him followed a series of members rising alternately from each side of the House.

Mr. Blake, of Winnipeg, is a Conservative-Unionist of sombre mien and still more sombre voice. "Le Devoir," says that he looks as if he had been born "on a wet day on low ground," but he, too, wanted more taxation and made an interesting statement of his friendly attitude towards Quebec. Mr. Manion of Fort William, put in a specious and decidedly foolish plea for bounties for ores. Mr. Reid, the independent from MacKenzie, Sask., who performed the fine feat of being elected against a candidate, endorsed both by Borden and Laurier, voiced the Western farmers' urgent demand for the removal of the duty on agricultural implements, which Mr. Richardson of Winnipeg, backed up. Mr. Richardson took a shot at the old Liberal party for its failure to live up to its tariff pledges and then seized the occasion to make a strong attack upon the Government for its fatal lassitude on the matter of the railways. He put down on Hansard a number of amazing facts which revealed a far worse state of affairs in regard to the Railway problem than most people dream of.

Mr. Joseph Read, the ancient mariner from Prince Edward Island, also gave his usual harangue in which quotations from Burns were interspersed with discourses upon the origin of the name "Bluenose" and the potato question. The Prince Edward Island members are always anxious to remove the stigma of smallness from their province by insisting upon the importance of its grievances and problems and the House is being continually treated to long monologues upon the necessity for urgent remedies to various ills which the unhappy Islanders labor under. On Thursday, Mr. MacIsaac, another member, took up nearly two hours of the House's time with such a plea. Thereafter, Mr. D. D. Mac-

Kenzie of Cape Breton, who is a venerable Liberal, deeply versed in the antiquarian history of party feuds in Canada, delved into ashes of the past for three hours and a half. The one interesting feature of his wearisome speech was a violent assault upon Sir Joseph Flavelle who is the favorite cockshy of every orator. He made a categorical charge that Sir Joseph, who is head of the Imperial Munitions Board, was awarding contracts to a concern in which he was personally interested and the Government so far have not seen fit to set up any one to refute the accusation. Major Redman, of Calgary, followed him and took the line that the taxation proposals of the Government were far too mild and unsatisfactory as far as making good the principle of equality of sacrifice. It was a strangely radical speech for one who is said to be a strong Conservative. Major Redman has a pleasing appearance but his delivery is far from impressive, and he lacks parliamentary experience. Still he made an earnest plea for better treatment for the returned soldiers and more drastic burdens upon the rich. The debate is still proceeding and there are apparently oceans of oratory to come. So far the Opposition have not moved any direct amendment to the budget in favor of free agricultural implements. They probably cherish the hope that someone from the Government side will take the step.

The most noticeable recent development is the better state of affairs in Quebec. All reports agreed, General Mewburn publicly testified in the House, that the response of the Quebec people to war efforts has shown a marked improvement in the last month. Large numbers of young men are volunteering for the Royal Flying Corps and the Tank detachment and the young men called up under the new regulations of the Military Service Act are responding both promptly and cheerfully. All talk of rioting and resistance has died down and there is an almost open enthusiasm for the war. The reasons for this pleasing change are various but the chief is that the Western members have discovered that Ontario's intolerance and arrogance was largely responsible for Quebec's lack of patriotic solidarity and have shown themselves full of sympathy and understanding towards the problem. The Quebec people who had previously felt that they were isolated from the rest of Canada and believed that the Military Service Act was designed solely to coerce them, now realize that there are many people in Canada who do not share the view of Ontario Orangeism and the French-Canadian nature is always ready to respond to sympathy. The desperate crisis of the war has also helped in the awakening. The rapprochement between the Quebec members and many of the Western Unionists has been most marked, even going the length of visits by the latter to Quebec members' homes and bodes ill for the future sanctity of Toronto's ark of the covenant, the high protectionist tariff.

—"BYSTANDER."



Production and Price Regulation

THE FOOD SITUATION

By Will Holmes

The matter is neither interesting nor startling to the people of the West. We are accustomed to dealing with wheat by train-loads. We are at the source of production and at this end of the circuit the evidences of famine are slight. We don't see the process of distribution and how the grain thins out to an alarming extent by the time it reaches the other side of the world. It is an easy thing to be cynical and harsh in our criticisms of the Food Controller but our fair degree of security should not blind us to the terrible possibilities of famine in this or other parts of the world. In the face of such a terror mistakes must be overlooked and the blackest crimes passed over while only one task devolves upon humanity, i.e., to feed the hungry.

The hour in which to exercise the power of prevention is now. Our Government through the Food Controller has been very frank in telling the western farmer that he must speed up production to the top notch. It is to be expected that the western farmer will be very frank with the Government in order that any serious danger may be effectively averted. The purpose of this article is to suggest frankly to those concerned the seriousness of the situation and the necessity of drastic action with the single object in view of meeting the present crisis.

In pre-war days our great crime was waste. We had statistics to show that Canada could almost feed the world and that the state of Texas alone was producing enough to feed the United States if a proper system of distribution could be brought into force to eliminate waste. We saw grain left to rot, fruit sunk in the depths of the sea and fish buried in the earth to keep up prices while countless thousands starved.

But to-day the sins of the past are being visited upon us with threatening terror. Millions of former producers have been transformed into wasters. The people who constitute the armies, navies, and munition workers of the world produce only that which will kill, nothing that will keep alive. Vast areas formerly used for productive purposes are now battlefields. So that war conditions have fixed themselves as a consuming parasite upon the earth's productive forces until humanity is threatened with a foe more terrible than Germany.

Perhaps it is difficult to listen to the Food Controller while we are surrounded with plenty, but the situation is grave. Among the worst of all calamities is famine and for our extravagance now we may see Europeans dying by the wayside and little children feeding on the undigested matter from the manure of animals as happened during the Indian famine. It is possible that our own crops may fail or be commandeered and we may be rationed until we feel the "belly pinch." Production is a stern business and the farmer engaged in it has rights.

We rightly demand the assurance that the fruits of our production are not being used for profits or any wasteful purposes, but are utilized as food. The West has been honest in making sacrifices and the spirit of sacrifice should be universal. With unanimity we have denied ourselves the use of beverages which consume food-

stuffs. If it is true that as much of our grain as goes into bread to feed the people of the old land goes into beverages which they refuse to give up and that the consumption of liquor last year showed a marked increase over the year before we have a right to the assurance that our wheat, barley, sugar, molasses, etc., be consumed, not because we are puritans, and not only because we want to defeat Germany, but because we want to secure the world against famine.

War has had a sobering effect upon the producers and they have come to the conclusion that perhaps it is wise in at least one particular to interfere with the operation of the law of supply and demand and that in respect to the one indispensable commodity, wheat. The social structure has not collapsed but it has been knocked lopsided, for we submit that to put a handicap on the producer of wheat when wheat is soaring in price and to leave all other industries free to soar according to the law of supply and demand is to discourage the production of wheat while encouraging every other industry. We all admit the necessity of price regulation in wheat. We also admit that under present conditions we are better off than we were before. We are profiteers. We welcome a limitation to our profiteering but if the world is to right itself a limitation should be put on all profiteering. Why limit the price of wheat and not the price of bread, of fruit, of labor, of horses, of lumber, of machinery, of boots, shoes and clothing? When all necessary commodities are subject to price regulation then all producers will be doing their bit as well as the farmer.

Then again, no producer takes such a risk as the farmer. The Government is urging him to make a big gamble as a patriotic measure. But what if he loses? If he is hailed, frozen or burnt out, or something happens to destroy his crop over which he has no control, what then? The Government is not only requiring a big initial investment but is paying for the risk. Why not eliminate the risk to the farmer and save money? If wheat were 50c or even 75c less than it is the Government could not only provide the seed, supervise all farming operations, but could also guarantee to every farmer a crop payment, say of 30 bushels to the acre, and in case of failure the entire amount could be paid with dockage to cover labor saved in harvesting. Some one more expert at insurance than the writer of this article could easily work out a scheme that would greatly strengthen the position of the Empire and be a help to the Government as well as to the farmer.

We refrain from discussion of the old bug-bear of the tariff on farm implements, etc. There never will be a satisfactory tariff arrangement until the Government becomes divorced from the private interests concerned. We can only marvel at the conservatism of a government when the nation is dangling over the very hell of disaster. While the people do not hesitate to plunge with their lives in their hands the Government hesitates to sacrifice a wealthy friend. We must free ourselves of this insane conservatism or we will find ourselves in a losing fight.

Meantime let the spirit of a noble sacrifice characterize the people of Canada. Abstemiousness will make us a healthier race as well as assisting to stave off the greatest of all calamities, nothing to eat.

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LIFE AND WORK

SIGNS OF THE NEW SOCIAL ORDER

Article II.

To effect a change in our social system there must be an educated public opinion. Society must be considered as an active agent, analogous to the individual. Collective intelligence is to society as the brain is to a person. Through the processes of evolution the nervous system of the human animal has undergone a long series of steps in integration, which has resulted in a conscious being, capable of self-direction. In a similar manner the whole of society is gradually becoming socially conscious through a corresponding integration which will ultimately result in society directing itself consciously toward self-preservation and advancement. When society has arrived at complete consciousness it will act as a unit on matters of vital importance, and all that is destructive to human well-being will be eliminated.

The great catastrophe of a world war, surpassing in suffering and destruction anything in human history, has awakened society, and pushed us on toward a collective consciousness through the irrepressible law of necessity. Many reforms advocated by the individual in pre-war days, and which were considered impracticable and anarchic by the masses, have been put into operation in the last three years of world crisis.

We have thus been pried out of our old conservative positions and are favorable to "new" adventures; we have been convinced that change is inevitable, that it is not the sign of death and destruction, but the natural course of life and progress to change.

Society could scarcely be so incomprehensibly stupid as to fail to learn a valuable lesson from the impressive demonstration of the failure of our individualistic institutions under the test of collective service demanded by the war. We have learned by bitter experience that the function of institutions is to serve society, and not to make profit for individuals, and will in future move collectively toward a social reconstruction in keeping with this new discovery.

A number of our most important institutions have utterly failed and prove the collapse of the individualistic system. All our ideas of politics, of religion, and ethics are in the melting pot, and while those ideas of traditional and historic fame shrivel up before our wondering gaze, we content ourselves in the profound

conviction that truth will come out as gold, through the refining fire.

The great centralized industries of the nations that are indispensable to a nation's life were the first to show signs of inefficiency. The banks, the means of transportation, and land monopoly, as profit-making institutions were shown to be incapable of serving the best interests of the nation. Accordingly steps were taken to secure government control of these in most of the countries at war. Great Britain took over the railroads, utilized the land of the landlords, and dictated terms to the banks. The movement is still toward government control, and ownership, and it is not probable that these industrial institutions will revert to private ownership after the war.

Following this came a sudden change in social ethics. "Service" was substituted for "profit" as the guiding star of activity. The rights of individuals to do business as usual began to be questioned, and people felt like excusing themselves for conducting businesses that were not primarily serviceable. Of course this is not universally true. Many business men of the old school are with us still, who continue to do business with the simple selfish idea of securing their own ends. These will likely continue until death removes them as a stumbling block from before the feet of human progress. But when due allowance has been made for those who are still profiteering there remain many healthy signs of a higher ethical standard for our social life.

Why is there so much talk to-day of excess profits? Why do the common people look with such contempt upon hog barons and munition rogues? A few years ago this would have gone unnoticed, in truth would have been accounted proper business. As a matter of fact there may be less profiteering to-day than at any time in the last hundred years. The difference lies in our awareness of the injustice of it. Society is becoming conscious that individual profiteering is opposed to the best interests of the collective whole, and hence making profit will be the greatest sin in the light of the new social ethics.

Now is the time for courageous leadership. The changes spoken of above have left the people in a spirit of great expectancy; they are audacious in their demands, and will be disappointed with political and economic patchwork. The leaders of the old regime are impotent, the call of the hour is for men with the new vision.

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THE CHURCH AND LABOR

A welcome innovation was introduced into the deliberations of the Presbyterian Synod of Alberta when J. H. Booth, Vice-President of the Calgary Trades and Labor Council, was invited to give an address on "The Church in Relation to the Labor Movement."

In outlining the aims and objects of organized labor, Mr. Booth stated that while the immediate problems to be tackled were the raising of the standard of living and improving the general conditions of labor, the movement is steadily aiming toward the abolition of the profit system, and the substitution of a system of production for use and co-operation in distribution, instead of competition with its great waste. The movement, he said, has been inspired by Christian ideals of love, service and self-sacrifice.

In criticizing the church for standing aloof from the problems that so vitally affect the masses of the people, Mr. Booth thought that too much time was taken up with sermons dealing with events which happened hundreds of years ago, and which in the nature of things could not have even a remote bearing on modern problems. Other-worldliness also came in for his condemnation, and he expressed the opinion that the church in neglecting to grapple with economic injustices was hopelessly out of touch with the spirit of the times, and consequently losing its influence on humanity.

This straight-from-the-shoulder talk made quite an impression and aroused considerable opposition. It was claimed by one speaker that Mr. Booth was trying to instruct the church in its duties (which in fact he really was in a very diplomatic way) and this advice was not very welcome coming from a layman. Another speaker thought the function of the Church was to lead men to God and had nothing to do with economics. This attitude is perhaps the greatest stumbling block in the way of co-operation between the Church and organized labor. It is based on the fallacy that moral and spiritual development has nothing whatever to do with material conditions, but by some mysterious exercise of will power can flourish under the most adverse social conditions. In criticizing Mr. Booth's remarks another cleric charged that the Labor movements had spurned the help of the Church as arbitrator in industrial disputes in the past and charged them with being intolerant.

Mr. Booth, in reply, pointed out that the church had never by its attitude shown an unbiased mind but always in such matters took it for granted that the workers' demands were unreasonable, and consequently invariably sided with capital. In spite of the reactionary elements how-

ever, there is undoubtedly a tendency on the part of some of the younger and more radical thinkers in the Church to recognize the necessity of a complete change in the methods adopted in the past, and Mr. Booth gave them credit for the work of such men as Dr. Salem Bland, Rev. W. Ivens and Rev. Wm. Irvine.

The very life of the Church depends on its awakening to the needs of the age, and the mere fact that Mr. Booth was invited to speak on such a subject shows that a feeling exists, at least in some quarters, that all is not well between the Church and the common people.

* * *

THE SEASON DOWN EAST

"A dry April for seeding and a damp May for growth." We have had the dry April; if there is plenty of moisture and warmth in May, as now seems probable, the new crop will be off to a good start.
—"TORONTO SUN"



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Letters from the People

GREAT SCOTT!!!

Calgary, May 4th, 1918

Editor, NON-PARTISAN.
Dear Sir:—

Grateful as it is in this Western country where the sole familiar classical quotation appears to be that famous line of Byron's concerning the filial relative of a female of the canine species, the writer, on noting in your issue of the 26th ulto., under the heading, "The Woman of the Future," the ascription to Shakespeare of the famous eulogy of the so-called fair sex, from "Marmion," could but ejaculate, "Great Scott!"

This, too, in a paper edited by a compatriot of Sir Walter's, and in an article written, if the idiom does not mislead me, by another Scot.

Times have surely changed since—"Milton, Dryden, Pope, alike forgot, "Resigned their hallowed bays to Walter Scott,"

if the NON-PARTISAN is now to be permitted to snatch those same bays from the brow of the wizard of the North, and plant them on the bald pate of Will of Avon.

But, Sir, as an Englishman, I protest. We Southrons have to answer for most of the sins of the British nation, but there are limits to the things we can allow to be laid at our door, amongst such, Scotch whisky, bagpipes, Harry Lauder, and above all, Scotch "poesy." Our national bard occasionally wrote nonsense, as what poet has not, but never, never, never, (well hardly ever) did he descend to doggerel.

If your contributor is anxious for "Sweet Will's" views on the question of women's rights, I would refer him to the closing scene of the "Taming of the Shrew."—

"Such duty as the subject owes the prince, Even such a woman oweth to her husband: And when she's froward, peevish, sullen, sour,

And, not obedient to his honest will, What is she but a foul contending rebel, And graceless traitor to her loving lord? I am ashamed, that women are so simple To offer war, when they should kneel for peace

Or seek for rule, supremacy, and sway, When they are bound to serve, love and obey."

This, while good poetry, is poor enough precept, but it must be remembered that Shakespeare but reflected the opinion of his time, and the above pretty correctly states the views currently held in the England of the sixteenth century. In this matter, as in many others, if one may judge by the recent debate at Ottawa, some of our wise men in the East are at about the same stage, in this twentieth century, as the old country reached some three hundred years ago.

Yours truly,

—W. Poock.

"Wayfarer" humbly acknowledges his "literary lapse" and must plead guilty to the tendency now and again, when memory fails, to blame it on "Will."

* * *

PRIVATE PROPERTY

"Why be horrified at doing away with private property. In society private property is already done away with for nine-tenths of the population, and its existence for the few is solely due to its non-existence in the hands of the other nine-tenths."

—KARL MARX.

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The Amusement Tax Act



To take Effect on,
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1st, 1918

Every person attending an exhibition, performance or entertainment at a place of amusement to which an entrance or admission fee is charged shall on each admission thereto pay an amusement tax at the following rates:

(1) When the price of admission is from 10c to 20c inclusive, a tax of 1c.

(2) When the price of admission is more than 20c and not more than 75c, a tax of 2½c.

(3) When the price of admission is more than 75c and not more than \$1.00 a tax of 5c.

(4) When the price of admission is more than \$1.00 but not more than \$2.00, a tax of 10c.

(5) When the price of admission is more than \$1.00 but not more than \$2.00, a tax of 10c.

(5) When the price of admission is more than \$2.00, a tax of 25c.

(6) A tax of 25c shall be paid by every person attending any boxing bouts or contests.

(7) Where admission is given by pass or complimentary tickets a tax shall be payable at the highest rate charged for the performance to which admission is granted.

PENALTIES

Every person who, without having previously paid the tax provided by this Act, enters a place of amusement in the province for the purpose of attending an exhibition, performance, entertainment or game shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty of not more than \$50.00 for each offence, and in default of the payment of the fine and costs, to imprisonment for not more than six months.

Every owner of a place of amusement and every employee of an owner of a place of amusement who permits or authorizes or is a party or privy to the admission of any person to a place of amusement for the purpose of attending an exhibition, performance, entertainment or game there-in without payment of the tax provided for by this Act, shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty of not less than \$25.00, nor more than \$200.00 for each offence, and, in default of payment of the fine and costs, to imprisonment for not more than six months.

E. TROWBRIDGE,
Deputy Provincial Secretary.

Edmonton, April 15th, 1918.

CRESCENT GARAGE

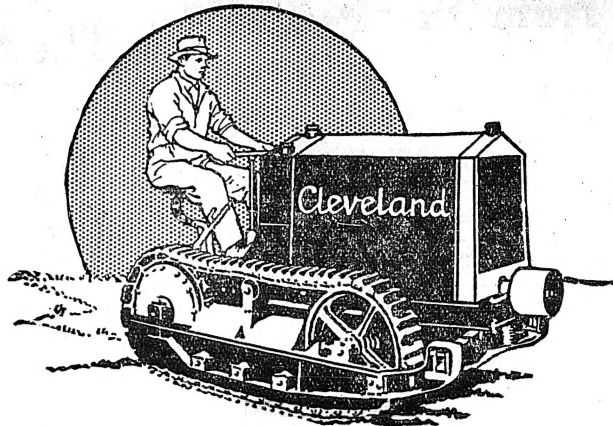
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